

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet recording apparatus for executing recording by ejecting inks onto a recording medium based on recorded data using a recording head for  
5 ejecting inks from ejection ports, comprising:

recovery means for executing recovery processing for maintaining the ink ejection capability of the recording head;

a cap member for capping the ejection ports of  
10 the recording head;

capping means for moving the cap member in a direction where the cap member approaches the recording head and in a direction where the cap member is separated from the recording head;

15 measurement means for measuring a cap-open period that is an elapsed period of a cap-open state in which the ejection ports are not capped with the cap member; and

control means for executing the recovery  
20 processing by the recovery means when the cap-open period cumulated by cumulation means exceeds a predetermined period.

2. An inkjet recording apparatus according to  
25 claim 1, wherein the control means resets the cumulated period when the recovery processing is

executed while the cap-open period is cumulated.

3. An inkjet recording apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the measurement means uses the  
5 elapsed period during which the recording is executed  
to the recording medium as the cap-open period.

4. An inkjet recording apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the capping means can move the cap  
10 means to a capping state in which the ejection ports  
are capped with the cap member and to a cap-open  
state in which the ejection ports are not capped with  
the cap member.

15 5. An inkjet recording apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the recovery processing executed by  
the recovery means includes suction recovery  
processing for discharging inks from the ejection  
ports by suction.

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6. An inkjet recording apparatus according to  
claim 1, further comprising:

calculation means for calculating the amount  
inks discharged from the recording head by ejection;

25 wherein when the cumulated period is longer  
than a predetermined period, the control means

further determines whether or not the discharged amount of the inks calculated by the calculation means is larger than a predetermined amount, and when the discharged amount of the inks is larger than the predetermined amount, the recovery processing is further executed by the recovery means.

7. An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the discharged amount of the inks is larger than the predetermined amount, the control means resets the cumulated period and the discharged amount of the inks.

8. An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the calculation means calculates the discharged amount of the inks by counting the number of ink droplets ejected from the recording head.

9. An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

determination means for determining whether or not the recorded data to be recorded next is present; and

memory means for storing the cumulated period and the discharged amount of the inks;

wherein when it is determined that the recorded

data to be recorded next is not present, the control means controls the capping means such that ejection ports are capped with the cap member as well as stores the cumulated period and the discharged amount  
5 of the inks in the memory means.

10. An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the recovery means executes recovery processing by discharging inks by suction, and the  
10 recovery processing is executed differently by changing the amount of inks to be sucked.

11. An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the cap members are  
15 provided, and the cap-open period is measured and cumulated by the measurement means for each cap member.

12. A inkjet recording apparatus according to  
20 claim 1, wherein a plurality of the recording heads are used in correspondence to the colors of the inks to be recorded, and the cap-open period is measured and cumulated for each of the ink colors.

25 13. A recovery control method in an inkjet recording apparatus, which executes recording by

ejecting inks onto a recording medium based on recorded data using a recording head for ejecting the inks from ejection ports, and comprises recovery means for executing recovery processing for

5 maintaining the ink ejection capability of the recording head, a cap member for capping the ejection port of the recording head, and capping means for moving the cap member in a direction where the cap member approaches the recording head and in a

10 direction where the cap member is separated from the recording head, the recovery control method comprising the steps of:

measuring a cap-open period that is an elapsed period of a cap-open state in which the ejection

15 ports are not capped by the cap member; and

executing the recovery processing by the recovery means when the cap-open period cumulated by cumulation means exceeds a predetermined period.

20 14. A recovery control method according to claim 13, further comprises the step of resetting the cumulated period when the recovery processing is executed while the cap-open period is cumulated.